

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 SY-07

OPR-02 M-03 A-01 AID-20 PC-04 NIC-01 RSR-01 /143 W
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R 092117 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1623

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

DIA DOD WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2459

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: BGEN, PINS, AR

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING ROUND- UP

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF BA 2412 (NOTAL), BA 2380 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ANTHONY DA CRUZ, TECHNICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER OF LOCAL KODAK PLANT, WAS RELEASED THE EVENING OF APR 7 SOME TWO HOURS AFTER COMPANY OFFICIALS HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT REQUEST OF VICTIM'S CAPTORS TO REVEAL ABDUCTORS' IDENTITY AND AMOUNT OF RAMSOM PAID. YET ANOTHER KIDNAPPING OF A HIGH BUSINESS OFFICIAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NOBLEZA TOBACCO COMPANY, WAS REPORTED IN THE APR 9 PRESS. FEW DEVELOPMENTS APPEARED OVER THE WEKEND IN THE CASE OF KIDNAPPED RADM (R) FRANCISCO ALEMAN; HOWEVER, HOPES BRIGHTENED THAT VICTIM IS STILL ALIVE WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A LETTER TO HIS FAMILY IN HIS HANDWRITING. END SUMMARY.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 2200 ON EVENING OF APR 7 ANTHONY DA CRUZ, TECHNICAL OPERATIONS MANAGER OF LOCAL KODAK PLANT, WAS RELEASED
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UNHARMED FOLLOWING FIVE- AND- A- HALF DAYS OF CAPTIVITY AND PAYMENT OF A RANSOM TOTALING FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (APPROXIMATELY US\$1,500,000) WHICH INCLUDED 800,000 DOLLARS. HE WAS RELEASED SOME TWO HOURS AFTER PRESS CONFERENCE WASH HELD BY COMPANY OFFICIALS AT THE REQUEST OF HIS ABDUCTORS WHO WANTED THEIR IDENTITY REVEALED AS THAT OF THE FUERZAS ARMADAS DE LIBERACION (FAL; MARXIST- CASTROITE) AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF RANSOM PAID.

3. DA CRUZ, ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL ATTACHE AND COMPANY OFFICIALS, WAS HOPEFUL OF LEAVING THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RELEASE TO COMPLY WITH HAS CAPTORS' WARNING OF SILENCE. HOWEVER, BOTH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL POLICE MOVED IN TO TAKE VICTIM' S TESTIMONY AND HIS DEPARTURE NOW SCHEDULED FOR TONIGHT.

4. MORNING APR 9 PRESS REPORTS YET ANOTHER KIDNAPPING OF A HIGH BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. LATEST TARGET IS FRANCISCO VICTOR BRIMICOMBE, PRESIDENT OF THE NOBLEZA TOBACCO COMPANY (SUBSIDIARY OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY) AND A BRITISH CITIZEN, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN FRONT OF HIS HOME IN TEMPERLEY, BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, ON THE EVENING OF APR 8. IDENTITY OF HIS CAPTORS AND RANSOM DEMANDS REMAIN UNKNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME.

5. WEEKEND SAW FEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE OF RADM(R) FRANCISCO ALEMAN WHO WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES APARTMENT
ON APR 2 BY MEMBERS OF THE TROTSKYITE EJERCITO REVOLUCIONARIO DEL PUEBLO (ERP). APR 8 PRESS CARRIED THE EXT OF A LETTER ATTRIBUTED TO VICTIM ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE AND SON IN WHICH HE SAYS HE IS WELL AND BEING TREATED CORRECTLY. LETTER HAS RAISED HOPES THAT VICTIM IS STILL ALIVE AND HAS NOT BEEN " EXECUTED" AS EARLIER WAS FEARED. APR 9 PRESS INDICATES THAT THIRD PERSON HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE ACTUAL KIDNAPPING (IN ADDITION TO A NEPHEW OF ALEMAN' S WIFE AND HIS FIANCEE REPORTED EARLIER).

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